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CAPI, MARVEL























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CAPT. MARVEL













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THE headlines of Earth's newspapers carried the amazing news-WAR ON EHEA!

It was amazing because it was the first war known to occur in the Solar System in two long conturies. Was had been outlawed by interplanetary apprenetative solar back in 2022 A.D. And with a powerful interplanetary police force patrolling the spaceways, no rate or planet had dared carry on 8 was.

But now Rhea was defying the law, indulging in war] Rhea was a satellite of Saturn, some 1500 miles in diameter. A small world, therefore a small war, but definitely a breach of the anti-war laws.

Of the many interplanetary police who roamed the void, keeping law and order, Lieutenant Jon Jarl was clorest to Rhee at the time war was declared there. An urgent message came to him frem Heddomarters.

"Astronomers reported seeing explosions on Rhea. High magnification revealed two armies battling. The two races of Rhea are at was. Land there and arrest the rwo leaders for breaking the peace."

jors almost had to largh as be set as govene for Khua. It was known that the total pepulation of about 4000, divided beauven two native rates of people. A wag between two native rates of people. A wag between two native stopping two gangs of men frem facturing.

But as jon drew near the tiny work, he new gigantic finites of light helow. They couldn't have stemic bombs, for only big worlds could make then, but they must have deviced seme powerful bombs and gons. And as jons trained his binccularders, he was startled to see two year armset batting. Excluded in some your of childing armor, it looked as if perhaps a million soliders were fighting.

Jon was both pizzled and alarmed. This was bigger than he thought. This could not be native Rhean arries, in such numbers. Therefore, some other world had sent its furbing men. Was then the answer?

By map, Jon located the main city of the Rhean Green People. It was a small but quite modern city.

As Jon came down for a landing, a wotchful rocket ship spell to him, Bashing the red signal, meaning-Halt !

Jon snapped on his radio, and spoke commandingly. "Let me through. Can't you see this is a Space Patrol ship? Let me through."

An spologetic reply came from the other ship. "Sorry! Thought you were an enemy. Please go on."

The Space Patrol was respected all through the Solar System.

Jon landed at the main spaceport and was soon ushered before the hold of the Orean People, known as Laader Goz. He was a tall thun creature, quite similar to an Earthman, except that he had bright green skin and brig green hilt.

"What is the meaning of his?" You bereast to be meaning of his?" You be can be proved to be a set of the set of the Blue People. You have the possible set cording to Interplanetary Law. I have to arrest you. Also the leader of the Blue People And the war must be halted immodulely. If you have any differences, they must be carried before the Interplanetary Court of Appeals."

"I know all thet," resurred Lasder Groz. Jon was mettled. "What's more, you have apparently drawn in the support of some other world, probably Japetus, to build up a buga army. That is an even worse crime-"

"Weit," said Groz, lifting s hand. "We have not brought in the soldiers of any other world,"

JON stared, "Then where did you and the Blue People pet so many fighting men? According to the last ceanus, you'd both be lucky to put an army of 100 men on the feld. And I saw more than a million battline?"

Grox shook his head. "This will be hard to explain..." He broke off and then said eatmly. "But you can't arrest ma."

Jon was really any now. "You defy the Space Patrol? And the anti-war laws? Article Three, Section 27, Clause Five, of the Proclumation of Pacce says that any pluget, nation, race, or group which free ups any other such group, with intent of war, is guilty."

"Yes," Groz returned easily, "But Section 42 states that war shall be defined to exist only when a warring group has caused one or more deaths." "Well?" snapped Lon. "By now you've

killed plenty of the Blue People, if your war has been going on for a week or mire."

Groz spoke gently. "We have not killed one soul of the Blue People. And they have not killed one of us?"

At this point, Jon was ulterly confused. "You're carrying on a wat,' involving a mallion men, and there hasn't been one cauality? It's impossible!"

TO answer, Gros turned and tuned a television screen. This television screen will pick up access directly it the heart of the heath." he said. And Jon saw the scene of two armses stragging. Men in shiny green armor were attaching a position held by men in shipy blue armor. The men in blue Wheeled up a huge gun and find. The men in process were blown to blue.

"I've just seen a hundred of your men destroyed," sold Jon, shaken. "War is a hudeges thing. That's why it was outlawed. And yet you try to tell me there are no cavalites."

But Graz was tuning his television carefully till it showed saveral of the green solders in closup. "Look!" he said. "Look cleach at these warriers of ours."

Jon looked-and gasped, They were not men waring shining armer. They were ... "Robots" breathed Jon. "Made out of wires and wheels. You mean your whole army, and that of the Blue People, is composed of robots?"

Oror nodded. "We have not put one living soldier in the battle at all. We are fabring this way with our robots."

"But why?" Jon was bewildered. "What's the sense and meaning of it all?"

"Let me explain," said Leader Groz. "Some time ago, there was trouble between the Grean People and the Blue People. The Blue People sent limeters to our forests and illegally shot our animals. In retaliation, we hunted animals in their territory. Soon we were anory enough to make war on each other. But we realized we could not carry on war, without breaking the Interplanetary Law, So we agreed to build robots and fight a proxy war. Each of us as fast as we could, and pit them against each other. Whichever ade won the war with its robots would have defeated the other side. Yet without one life being last! You see, we couldn't afford to lose lives anyway. Our races are so small, only 2010 each, that each life to us is highly mu

Jon was amared. "A war between robots]

It's almost like a football gama, sending two teams of powerful bruisers against each other, to see who wins." Ton grunned,

Grost led the way to another room in which a dozen Green Men sat at complicated control boards with fisshing plot lights and many switches and diat. "These are my generals," explained Groz.

"Those are my generals," explained Groz, "Each of them handles his army of robots by remote control. It's a game of wits, you see. The Blue Generals are doing the same thing, back bome in their city."

One Green general turned with disgusted face, as a red light fished on his beard. "Blass it all' he grunted. "Just lost 200 men on the Right Sector!" Then he shrupged. "Oh well, they're only rebots, not men. The factory will give me 200 more tomorrow to throw into the battle."

Gros turned smillingly to Jon. "So you see, Libutenant, there has not been one living casualty. Therefore, scoording to your own anti-war law, this is not a war at all?"

Jon had to langh. "It's a good joke on me, and on the Spate Patcol. But you're right. I can't arrest you at all." His face went stern. "But remember, Leader Groz, if one man dies through this, it will be war! Play your game, but don't risk lives."

"The war will be over soon," Groe nodded. "After all, our factories cannot turn out robots forever, at such a furious rate. I bate to say it, but I think ..."

At that moment, an attendant called Groa to his television screen. In the screen shone the frowning face of the leader of the Blue People. "Groz," he backed. 'I think our war of robots has reached a stalemate. Shall we call at draw?"

"Agreed" returned Geor. "We will cove hostilities in five minutes. And look-how about you and your generals coming We for a bie schebeation tonght?"

Gros invited Jon, teo. But Jon was scery he stayed. All he heard, for endless hours, was a constant argument between the Green and Blue generals, as to which had won which individual battle most cloverly with his robot soldiers.

WHEN Jon left, he couldn't decide whether the Rosans had been silly fools to earry on their ridiculous wargame. Or whether they had been wise beyond telling in carrying out their war without risking a single life.

THE END

There will be another startling adventure with JON JARL in the future in next month's CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVEN-TURES:

























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